

Greetings!

Thank you for your interest in volunteering for the Transverse Myelitis Association (TMA) and hosting an awareness and fundraising event to benefit the TMA.

We are a not-for-profit dedicated to the support of children, adolescents, and adults with a spectrum of rare neuro-immunologic disorders including: Acute Disseminated Encephalomyelitis (ADEM), Neuromyelitis Optica (NMO), Optic Neuritis (ON) and Transverse Myelitis (TM). Very little is understood about the disease mechanisms for these disorders. It is believed that a person who develops one of these rare neuro-immunologic disorders likely has a genetic predisposition to auto-immunity, and that there are environmental factors that interact with these genetics to trigger the disease. No one yet understands why some people have a good recovery from an attack, while others have no recovery at all.

Founded in 1994 by family members and persons with these diagnoses, the TMA was incorporated on November 25, 1996 in the state of Washington and we became a 501(c)(3) organization on December 9, 1996. Our EIN is 91-1780467. Membership of the TMA includes individuals with these rare disorders, their family members and caregivers, and the medical professionals who treat individuals with these disorders. The TMA currently has approximately 9,800 members from more than 80 different countries and has a large number of support groups across the United States and around the world. There are no membership fees.

The goals of the TMA are to advance a comprehensive network of medical professionals dedicated to the care of patients, to support research to further the understanding of the causes of TM, ADEM, ON and NMO, and to develop new acute and regenerative therapies. The TMA also offers a support network between persons with these disorders through local support groups located throughout the world. The James T. Lubin Fellowship was established to attract new clinicians and researchers into the rare neuro-immunologic disorder discipline. In addition to publishing newsletters to update the community on current research and various community outreach events and opportunities, the TMA supports and conducts various educational events involving clinicians, scientists, and individuals affected by these disorders for the exchange of information regarding research and treatment strategies, including annual family camps for children with these disorders and their family members. To learn more about the TMA, please visit us at <http://myelitis.org>.

Based on our experience, we have provided you with some tools to help start planning for a walk in your city. We look forward to helping you plan along the way and working with you.

We are truly grateful for your leadership, enthusiasm and support and we know that we cannot achieve our goals without you. We look forward to partnering with you in spreading the word about these rare neuro-immune diseases and raising funds to support crucial cutting-edge research.

Best wishes,

Chitra Krishnan, MHS

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